

Healthy Moms – As part of a multi-year effort, The Institute is providing a formative and summative program evaluation to assess and understand the efficacy of Healthy Moms programming related to opioid use disorder (OUD). The initiative is a coordinated care effort that addresses the needs of pregnant women and newborns with OUD. It is modeled after Ohio’s Maternal Opiate Medical Support (MOMS) project.

Geisinger 4Ride Program Evaluation, 2018-2019 – Geisinger enlisted The Institute to evaluate the 4Ride Program (a coordinated public transportation effort) and determine whether access to transportation positively influences social determinants of health. Quality-of-life indicators, such as access to food and job outlook, were assessed. The initiative is studying the impact of transportation on physical and mental health, including reductions in hospital readmissions and emergency room visits, regular use of prescriptions, improvement in medical appointment attendance, as well as patient-perceived improvement in quality of life.

United Way of Wyoming Valley Home Visitation Program Study and Needs Assessment, April 2019 – Home visit programs improve the mental and physical health of families, create socio-economic benefits for families and communities, help children access health care and improve birth and health outcomes, empower families to become self-sufficient by providing support to career-seeking parents, and promote positive parenting practices. The research team assessed the reach of home visitation programs in Luzerne County and offered recommendations for better meeting family needs in the area.

Luzerne County Head Start, September 2016 and 2018 – Needs assessments conducted by the Institute equipped Luzerne County Head Start with insight from multiple stakeholder groups, as well as strategic analysis and recommendations for the future. The assessments addressed accessibility of transportation, degree of family involvement, hiring and retention of program staff, marketing and communication, and the possibility of more community partnerships. Overall, Head Start is favorably received and there are continuing needs for funding increases and service expansion.



Lehigh Valley Health Network, August 2018 – The Institute assisted the healthcare system with the completion of a regional needs assessment, as required every three years by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Data were collected from community members, subject matter experts, and other stakeholders to create a profile with prioritized health needs.

United Way Wyoming Valley Berwick Needs Assessment, July 2018 – In this report, the Berwick area is described in terms of economic, social, and demographic trends. Several of the region’s most pressing needs are detailed. The Institute conducted interviews and surveys of community members and synthesized them with secondary data to identify opportunities for the United Way Wyoming Valley to develop initiatives that positively influence Berwick residents.

Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, May 2018 – Lackawanna County operates dozens of programs targeted primarily to older adults. The Institute completed a needs assessment on behalf of the county’s Area Agency on Aging, highlighting unmet needs for services. Members of the aging

population expressed financial concerns and the desire to live comfortably in their own homes. There is significant support to help seniors access resources like Medicaid and Medicare, but room for more opportunities to educate and employ these individuals.



Maternal and Family Health Services, March 2018 – Assessing the health and reproductive needs of Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc.'s target population enabled the organization to maximize the impact of their family planning and related preventative care services.

Geisinger Springboard, February 2018 – Springboard Health is the Geisinger initiative that sparked the Scranton Transformers coalition. Participants in this program committed to transforming personal and public health – in vulnerable populations and the region overall. The Institute gathered the data that informed both this program and a city profile called, 'Why Scranton?'

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine – Behavioral Health Study, December 2017 – All types of behavioral health professionals are in short supply, and they serve a growing population. The Institute analyzed occupations (including recruitment, retention, and wage issues) and growth projections (i.e. increasing demand for services and effective adaptation by service delivery organizations).

Pocono Alliance, March 2017 – Monroe County enlisted the Institute to evaluate its behavioral health continuum of care. The resulting improvement plan offered a SWOT analysis that highlighted assets and gaps, along with recommendations for meeting a range of behavioral needs. The United Way of Monroe County subsequently implemented multiple collaborative projects.

AllOne Foundation, November 2016 – The Institute measured indicators present in 13 counties and developed detailed county profiles that describe socio-economic, health and social service data trended over time. Areas of focus included teen pregnancy, suicide rates, drug abuse, limited access to healthy food, and more. With three-year to five-year assessments of these indicators, it's possible to evaluate the influence of AllOne grantees and make improvements to ensure positive change as needed.

Healthy Northeastern Pennsylvania Initiative Community Health Needs Assessment, December 2012 – This study used a variety of primary and secondary research tools to evaluate the health status, needs, perception, and knowledge of residents in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The largest amount of data was collected through the deployment of 12,000 surveys mailed to area residents. Members of the medical and social service communities were also interviewed and surveyed.

United Way of Wyoming Valley – Social Services Best Practices, December 2012 – The research team identified possible causes of poverty, low education performance and attainment, and health issues through multiple research methods in order to improve student performance in school, reduce poverty, and improve community health. The project follows a 2006 review of best practices to align homelessness with social service management.

Moses Taylor Hospital Patient Perception Study, June 2011 – The Institute conducted a pilot survey in Lackawanna County to learn the reasons people leave NEPA for medical care, and to determine where they go and for what services.

Moses Taylor Hospital Health Status Report, June 2010 – A demographic analysis, along with a health status report, was conducted for Lackawanna County. They charted health trends for the past decade, and identified implications of population trends, age demographics, and other economic factors on the growth potential of the market.

Healthy Community Assessment, May 2008 – This project was an assessment of Luzerne County in regard to types and number of health facilities, health initiatives, and service providers available as they pertain to obesity, nutrition, wellness, physical activity, disease management, and the area’s built environment.